

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MEXICO 00097 051704Z

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 SS-15 NSC-05

SP-02 L-02 INR-07 EB-07 RSC-01 /050 W

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FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5486

C O N F I D E N T I A L MEXICO 97

E.O. 11652: GDS, MX

TAGS: PFOR,

SUBJECT: VISIT WITH PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA: OVERALL
U.S./MEXICAN RELATIONS

REF: MEXICO 96 (NODIS)

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM THE AMBASSADOR

1. IN REPLY TO MY QUESTION, PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA SAID THAT HE WAS QUITE SATISFIED WITH THE OVERALL CLIMATE OF U.S./MEXICAN RELATIONS, PARTICULARLY SINCE HIS SUCCESSFUL, CORDIAL MEETING WITH PRESIDENT FORD AT MAGDALENA/TUBAC. THE ENTHUSIASTIC RECEPTION BY THE MEXICAN PEOPLE DEMONSTRATED THAT, DESPITE OCCASIONAL DIFFERENCES, THERE WAS REAL AFFECTION BETWEEN US. THE TALKS WITH PRESIDENT FORD AND WITH SECRETARY KISSINGER HAD BEEN FRANK AND CONSTRUCTIVE. HE NOW HAD SOME CONCERNS REGARDING THE TRADE REFORM ACT BUT HE HAD NOTED PRESIDENT FORD'S COMMENT REGRETTING THE RESTRICTIONS PLACED ON IT BY THE SENATE AND HE WAS CONVINCED THAT THE ACT WOULD BE IMPLEMENTED IN AN EQUITABLE AND JUDICIOUS WAY WHICH SHOULD BE BENEFICIAL TO MEXICO IN THE LONG RUN. I ASSURED HIM OF OUR HOPE TO BE FLEXIBLE EXCEPT IN REGARD TO OPEC MEMBERSHIP WHERE EXECUTIVE HANDS SEEMED TO BE TIED. HE REITERATED THE COMMENT MADE EARLIER THAT MEXICO HAD NO INTENTION OF JOINING OPEC WHICH SEEMED TO BE POLITICAL. MEXICO WOULD,
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PAGE 02 MEXICO 00097 051704Z

HOWEVER, COLLABORATE WITH OPEC ON SALES WHICH MUST BE

AT MARKET PRICES IN ORDER TO BE FAIR TO THE MEXICAN PEOPLE, BUT THERE WOULD BE NO POLITICAL STRINGS ATTACHED TO MEXICAN OIL SALES.

2. HE SAID HE HIMSELF HAD HAD A LONG HISTORY OF WORKING WITH AMERICANS AND FULLY REALIZED THE VALUE OF SUCH COLLABORATION. WHILE MEXICO HAD TO ADOPT INDEPENDENT ATTITUDES ON INTERNATIONAL AS WELL AS DOMESTIC PROBLEMS, SUCH INDEPENDENCE GAVE SATISFACTION TO MEXICAN PUBLIC OPINION AND HAD BROUGHT HIM POLITICAL AND SOCIAL PEACE. DESPITE THIS IT WAS POSSIBLE TO WORK TOGETHER AS HE HOPED TO DO ON A VARIETY OF INTERNATIONAL MATTERS AND, DOMESTICALLY, HE WELCOMED APPROPRIATE CONTROLLED FOREIGN--AND PARTICULARLY U.S.--INVESTMENT. IT WAS TO MAKE THIS CLEAR THAT HE WAS INVITING TOP U.S. BUSINESS LEADERS TO MEET WITH HIM ON JANUARY 18.

3. HE HAD LONG WORKED WITH THE U.S. EMBASSY IN VARIOUS CAPACITIES. OUR FRANK EXCHANGE TODAY, HE SAID, EXEMPLIFIED HIS EASY RELATIONSHIP WITH THE EMBASSY AND HE AGREED THAT HE WOULD TELL ME WITH EQUAL FRANKNESS ANY TIME HE FELT COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN US WERE INDADEQUATE.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, TRADE LAW, FOREIGN INVESTMENT, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 JAN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975MEXICO00097
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750004-0783
From: MEXICO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750177/aaaacpuz.tel
Line Count: 86
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 MEXICO 96
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 SEP 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <09 SEP 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <10 SEP 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: VISIT WITH PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA: OVERALL U.S./MEXICAN RELATIONS
TAGS: PFOR, MX, US, OPEC, (ECHEVERRIA ALVAREZ, LUIS), (FORD, GERALD R), (KISSINGER, HENRY A)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006